

Fall In

Conditional promotions suspended

All conditional promotions Army-wide from sergeant to sergeant first class will be suspended until further notice as of Jan. 1.

Under a new policy dated Oct. 10, the Army will stop all conditional promotions from sergeant to sergeant first class after Jan. 1.

Here's how the new policy will look:

❑ A sergeant has to graduate from the Primary Leadership Development Course to be considered for promotion to staff sergeant.

❑ A staff sergeant has to graduate from the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course to be considered for promotion to sergeant first class.

❑ A sergeant first class has to graduate from the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course to be considered for promotion to master sergeant.

Under the old policy, a Soldier promoted to sergeant had to finish PLDC within one year to keep the rank. Now a

Soldier promoted to sergeant doesn't need PLDC at all to keep the rank but will need it for consideration for staff sergeant.

Currently there are 36,641 Soldiers waiting for seats in the Army's various Noncommissioned Officer Education System schools, said Command Sgt. Maj. Lionel Parker, of the institutional training shop at the Army G-3.

That breaks down into 15,373 sergeants, 13,367 staff sergeants and 7,901 sergeants first class waiting for that important step in their careers.

Parker said the Army's operations staff is working out details of a plan to train those Soldiers waiting for school seats.

As it stands now, units tapped for deployment will send their Soldiers to school before going, and units coming back will send them afterward, Parker said.

The policy also states retiring Soldiers or those leaving the Army will depart the Army in their current rank regardless of their NCOES status.



Reserves seek AGR Recruiters

Current members of the Army Reserve, Army National Guard and active Army Soldiers interested in the Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Program may be eligible to become an Army Reserve Recruiter.

Although full requirements are listed in AR 601-1, Chapter 6, some of the requirements are:

Soldiers must be in the rank of specialist through sergeant first class; have a GT score of 110 or above; be

at least 21, but younger than 35; and have less than 13 years of Active Federal Service.

Recruiters have excellent promotion opportunities. In addition to earning active duty pay and benefits, Recruiters receive a \$450 special duty assignment pay, use of a government

vehicle and an expense allowance. For more information, log on to <http://www.goarmy.com/contact/>.



Army Reserve, Guard job center opens

The 125,000 Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers currently mobilized for the war on terror will have help finding jobs when they go home.

The Army Career and Alumni Program Demobilization Center that opened in Alexandria, Va., Sept. 29 will help them find new jobs, said James Hoffman, program director.

"Things change," Hoffman said. "A Soldier gets home after being mobilized and finds the job he was counting on isn't there anymore; maybe the company folded, or maybe that Soldier realized he has grown and the old job just wasn't right any longer."

The center responds to questions about eligibility for transition services and benefits as well as offer referrals to other service providers such as the Department of Labor and

Department of State Employment Office and Veterans Affairs.

Program officials are giving Reserve component Soldiers business cards with contact information as they demobilize, Hoffman said.

A returning Reservist or Guardsman can be put in touch with a person who can help by calling 1-877-722-2270 or e-mailing acap4rc@hoffman.army.mil. Additional details are at <http://www.acap.army.mil>.

In addition, Soldiers who want to return to their jobs have reinstatement rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. More information about that can be found at the Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve Web site at <http://www.esgr.org>.

ESGR Forward comes to Europe



Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense committee, is moving forward to help National Guard and Reserve Soldiers stationed in Europe. Thanks to ESGR Forward, Europe now has an Ombudsman to help Guard and Reserve Soldiers and their employers, who need assistance with re-employment or employment issues. Soldiers in Europe who need assistance may contact their Ombudsman at DSN (314) 430-8864 or esgreurope@aol.com. Soldiers who need information about ESGR and are stationed outside of Europe may call 1-800-336-4590 or visit <http://www.esgr.org>.